

PETITION

OF

ORIGEN BACHELER,

PRAYING

*Congress to propose to the Governments of France and Mexico to settle
the controversy existing between them by arbitration.*

JUNE 30, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States of America in Congress assembled:*

The undersigned respectfully presents the following petition :

That your honorable body propose to the Governments of France and Mexico that they submit their disputes to the arbitration of a third party, consisting of one power or more, or of individuals selected for the purpose, as may to them seem desirable.

Your petitioner deems it scarcely necessary that he should make use of a single argument in support of this petition. The recognition of the propriety of the principle of international arbitration, in various instances, by the Government of the United States, and, particularly, by your honorable body during your present session, would seem entirely to supersede the necessity of argument in this instance. But where there is arbitration, there must be an arbitrator, and a mediator, likewise, when, as in the case before us, neither *party* proposes arbitration. And who so suitable a mediator, on this occasion, as the United States; the country that has herself been preserved from war with both those powers by means of the very principle under consideration ? It were but the mere discharge of a debt to the community of nations, that the country that has herself repeatedly realized the benefit of the disinterested and magnanimous interposition of others, in the amicable adjustment of her disputes, should, in her turn, tender the same generous services, when opportunity presents. But, more particularly, does this country owe it to *herself*; to the spirit of her institutions, to her high claims to political pre-eminence, that she contribute largely to the concord and general weal of nations.

It were difficult to conceive a more glorious attitude for a nation than that of attempting to conciliate hostile powers. If to make peace between individuals was pronounced, by the founder of the Christian religion, a blessed deed ; if peace-makers, on a small scale, were by him denominated

the children of God ; transcendently blessed and glorious must it be to make peace between nations, and preserve vast multitudes from the unspeakable horrors of war.

Your petitioner trusts that the circumstance that this petition is signed only by himself will not prevent its receiving audience from your honorable body, but that it will be regarded with reference to the importance of its object, rather than to its circumstances. So near is your present session to its close, that your petitioner has not the requisite time to circulate the petition for signatures. But from what he already knows of the sentiments of his fellow-citizens, he does not hesitate to say, that were it to be properly circulated, he doubts not that the entire community would be found to be in its favor. In addition, therefore, to the great good which would result from the adoption of the proposed measure by your honorable body, there can be no doubt that it would be one of the most popular acts that could be performed. Your petitioner can but hope that your honorable body will grant his prayer without a dissenting voice.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

ORIGEN BACHELER,

Cor. Secretary New York Peace Society.

NEW YORK, June 28, 1838.